

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 2604

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN

REF: ATHENS 2254

1. THE TURKISH AIR AND SEA EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN AND THE GREEK NAVAL EXERCISES OFF THE EASTERN COAST OF THE PELOPONNESUS WERE REPORTED WIDELY IN THE GREEK PRESS TODAY (MARCH 22). THE GOG IS OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO KEEP THE EXERCISES IN PERSPECTIVE AND TO DOWNPLAY THE ALARMIST IMPLICATIONS OF SOME OF THE SPECULATION THAT IS GOING AROUND HERE.

2. FOR EXAMPLE, RESPONDING TO SPECULATION THAT THE GREEK

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NAVAL EXERCISES (REFTEL) WERE ORGANIZED SUDDENLY IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH POSSIBLE TURKISH "PROVOCATIONS," THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ISSUED A STATEMENT YESTERDAY WHICH SAID: "THE EXERCISES ARE PART OF A SERIES OF NUMEROUS ANNUAL EXERCISES OF THE NAVY, NAVAL COMMANDS AND BASES. MANY SUCH EXERCISES ARE DRAWN UP TOWARDS THE END OF EACH YEAR, AND APPROPRIATE PRINTED INSTRUCTIONS DISTRIBUTED

TO SHIPS AND SERVICES IN JANUARY. THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PRESENT NAVAL EXERCISES ARE INCLUDED IN THE VOLUME PUBLISHED LAST YEAR."

3. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY (ANA) BULLETIN, WHICH REPORTED THE ABOVE TODAY, WENT ON TO SAY THAT ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF VESSELS ARE TAKING PART IN THIS PHASE OF THE EXERCISE WHICH IS OF A PURELY TECHNICAL CHARACTER AND ADDED THAT THE EXERCISE BEARS NO RELATIONS WHATSOEVER TO THE TURKISH EXERCISES. THE ANA BULLETIN THEN GOES ON TO QUOTE UNIDENTIFIED SOURCES AS HAVING DENIED REPORTS THAT THE GREEK NAVY HAS BEEN PLACED ON ALERT.

4. THE AFTERNOON PRESS CARRIES A STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE WHO WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON A REUTER STORY OF YESTERDAY DETAINED ANKARA WHICH CLAIMED "THE TURKISH EXERCISES, IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OF THE AEGEAN, WILL CUT OFF THE GREEK ISLANDS WHICH ARE LOCATED NEAR THE TURKISH COAST." AVEROFF DENIED THIS AND IS REPORTED AS SAYING "THE TURKISH EXERCISES ARE BEING CARRIED OUT IN PREDETERMINED ZONES WITHIN WHICH THE SHIPS ARE SAILING AND THE AIRCRAFT ARE FLYING."

KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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